



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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ADVERTISEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED CURRICULUM FOR BASIC EDUCATION

Cabinet at its 3rd/25.03.14/001 meeting approved the curriculum reform for Basic Education and the eight-year implementation of the curriculum.

The Ministry of Education wishes to inform the public that the revised curriculum for Basic Education will be implemented as follows:

1. The **revised curriculum of the Junior Primary phase** (pre-primary, grades 1-3) comprises of the following subjects: Mother Tongue Instruction from pre-primary to grade 3, English, Mother Tongue/predominant local language, Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Arts, Physical Education and Religious and Moral Education. The revised junior primary curriculum will be implemented in **January 2015**.
- 1.1 The following preparation was done for the implementation of the revised Junior Primary Curriculum:
 - 1.1.1 All junior primary syllabuses were approved by the National Examinations, Assessment and Certification Board in 2013.
 - 1.1.2 The Learning Support Materials for junior primary curriculum have been developed and evaluated.
 - 1.1.3 The national training for trainers of trainers for primary school principals took place in May 2014.
 - 1.1.4 The intensive national training for junior primary facilitators took place in June 2014.
 - 1.1.5 The promotion policy for primary has been approved by the Management Policy and Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Education in March 2014.
- 1.2 The following activities will be carried out before the beginning of 2015 calendar year:
 - 1.2.1 Printing and distribution of junior primary syllabuses and training manuals
 - 1.2.2 Regional in-service teacher training for junior primary teachers (including pre-primary teachers) in all fourteen regions will take place during the last two weeks of the current school calendar year.
 - 1.2.3 Procurement of junior primary learning support materials (textbooks) will be done in October and textbooks will be in schools early January 2015.
2. The **revised curriculum for senior primary phase (grades 4-7)** comprises of the following subjects:

Five promotional core subjects:

- English, Mother Tongue, Mathematics, Natural Science and Health Education, Social Studies
- Plus 3 promotional pre-vocational subjects gr 5-7: Elementary Agriculture, Design and Technology, Home Ecology (with entrepreneurial skills integrated)

Plus five (5) support subjects: Life Skills, Religious and Moral Education, Arts, Information and Communication, Physical Education. The revised curriculum for the senior primary phase will be implemented in **2016**.

2.1 The following has been done for the preparation of the implementation of the revised senior primary curriculum:

- 2.1.1 All the syllabuses for the senior primary phase have been approved by the National Examinations, Assessment and Certification Board in 2014.
- 2.1.2 The hand tools for the in-service teacher training for pre-vocational subjects have been purchased. The in-service teacher training will be carried out in 2015.
- 2.1.3 The specifications for procuring hand tools have been developed and the directorates of education in the regions will procure the tools in 2015.
- 2.1.4 The learning support materials (textbooks) for the revised senior primary curriculum are being developed. The textbooks will be evaluated, procured and distributed in 2015.
- 2.1.5 The in-service teacher training for the revised senior primary curriculum is already planned, costed and will appear in the NIED Calendar of Activities for 2015/16. It is planned that the in-service teacher training for the implementation of the revised senior primary curriculum will be carried out as from the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year.

3. The **revised curriculum for junior secondary phase (grades 8 and 9)** comprises of **nine** promotional subjects: *six core promotional subjects* and *three elective promotional subjects* (another language and two technical and vocational subjects) and *five support subjects*. The curriculum is diversified with core and elective subjects that include academic and pre-vocational subjects.

- **Six compulsory promotional subjects:** English; Mathematics; Life Science; Physical Science; Geography and History
- **Elective subjects:**
 - Another Language (First, Second or Foreign);
 - Agriculture; Computer Studies; Design and Technology; Accounting; Office Practice; Entrepreneurship; Visual Art; Integrated Performing Arts; Hospitality; Home Economics; Fashion and Fabrics; Technical Studies A, B and C Subjects (covering learning areas of *Metalwork and Welding, Woodwork, Building Studies; Electricity and Electronics, Motor-mechanics*) and Technical Drawing.

Support subjects: Life Skills, Arts, Religious and Moral Education, Information and Communication and Physical Education. The implementation of the revised curriculum for the Junior Secondary curriculum will be as follows: **grade 8 in 2017 and grade 9 in 2018**.

3.1 The following has been done for the preparation of the implementation of the revised junior secondary curriculum:

3.1.1 Thirteen schools that will offer Technical and Home Sciences subjects have been identified. The fourteenth school will also be identified. The cost estimates for renovation of the existing workrooms, construction of new workrooms and purchasing of equipment and other resources have been done.

3.1.2 All junior secondary syllabuses will be submitted to the National Examinations Assessment and Certification Board in October 2014 for approval.

3.2 The following should be done for the preparation of the implementation of the revised junior secondary curriculum:

3.2.1 In-service teacher training for the grade 8 curriculum implementation will be costed in 2015 and carried out in 2016.

3.2.2 The promotion policy for the senior secondary phase will be submitted to the Management Policy and Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Education for approval in March 2016.

3.2.3 The learning support materials will be developed, evaluated, procured and distributed to schools in 2016 for the implementation of the revised grade 8 curriculum in 2017.

3.2.4 In-service teacher training for the revised grade 9 curriculum implementation will be costed in 2016 and carried out in 2017.

3.2.5 The learning support materials will be developed, evaluated, procured and distributed to schools in 2017 for the implementation of the revised grade 9 curriculum in 2018.

4. The **revised curriculum for senior secondary phase (grades 10-12)** comprises of *National Senior Secondary Ordinary Level Course* and *National Senior Secondary Higher Level Course*.

The **National Senior Secondary Ordinary Level** curriculum comprises of the following subjects:

Core subjects: English; Mathematics/ Advanced Mathematics

• **Elective subjects:**

- Another Language (First, Second or Foreign);
- Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Geography; History; Agriculture; Computer Studies; Design and Technology; Accounting; Office Practice; Business Studies; Economics; Entrepreneurship; Development Studies; Art and Design; Hospitality; Home Economics; Fashion and Fabrics; Metalwork and Welding, Woodwork, Bricklaying and Plastering; Electricity and Electronics, Motor-Mechanics and Plumbing and Pipe Fitting and Technical Drawing, Health and Social Care and Hairdressing.

Support subjects: Life Skills; Arts; Information and Communication; Physical Education. A learner takes two promotional core subjects, four promotional elective subjects and four support subjects.

For the National Senior Secondary Higher Level Course, which will be benchmarked against the Cambridge Advanced Subsidiary (AS), a learner takes four to six promotional elective subjects and four support subjects. One of the elective subjects must be a language.

- A learner will take any first, second and third language.
- **Elective subjects:**
 - Biology; Geography; History; Computer Studies; Mathematics; Agricultural Sciences; Business Studies; Economics; Chemistry; Physics; Design and Technology; Accounting; Entrepreneurship; Art and Design; Home Economics; Fashion and Fabrics.
- **Support subjects:** Life Skills; Arts; Information and Communication; Physical Education.
- The implementation of the revised curriculum for the senior secondary phase will be as follows: **grade 10 in 2019; grade 11 in 2020 and grade 12 in 2021.**
- A Cambridge International Advanced Level will be introduced in the Namibian secondary education through a phase-in plan, taking into account the availability of financial resources and the capacity of schools. Some subjects taken at AS Level may be extended to A Level. It is planned that A Level will be implemented in 2022.

4.1 The following has been done for the preparation of the implementation of the revised senior secondary curriculum:

4.1.1 A schedule for the review and approval of senior secondary syllabuses has been discussed with Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

4.1.2 Scope and sequence matrices for senior secondary syllabuses have been drafted.

4.2 The following should be done for the preparation of the revised senior secondary curriculum:

4.2.1 The existing senior secondary syllabuses will be reviewed, developed together with specimen papers and submitted to CIE for screening and inputs.

4.2.2 The syllabuses for new senior secondary subjects will be developed together with specimen papers and submitted to CIE for screening and inputs.

4.2.3 The senior secondary syllabuses will be submitted to the National Examinations, Assessment and Certification Board for approval.

4.2.4 The learning support materials will be developed, evaluated, procured and distributed to schools in 2018 for the implementation of the revised grade 10 curriculum in 2019.

4.2.5 The learning support materials will be developed, evaluated, procured and distributed to schools in 2019 for the implementation of the revised grade 11 curriculum in 2020.

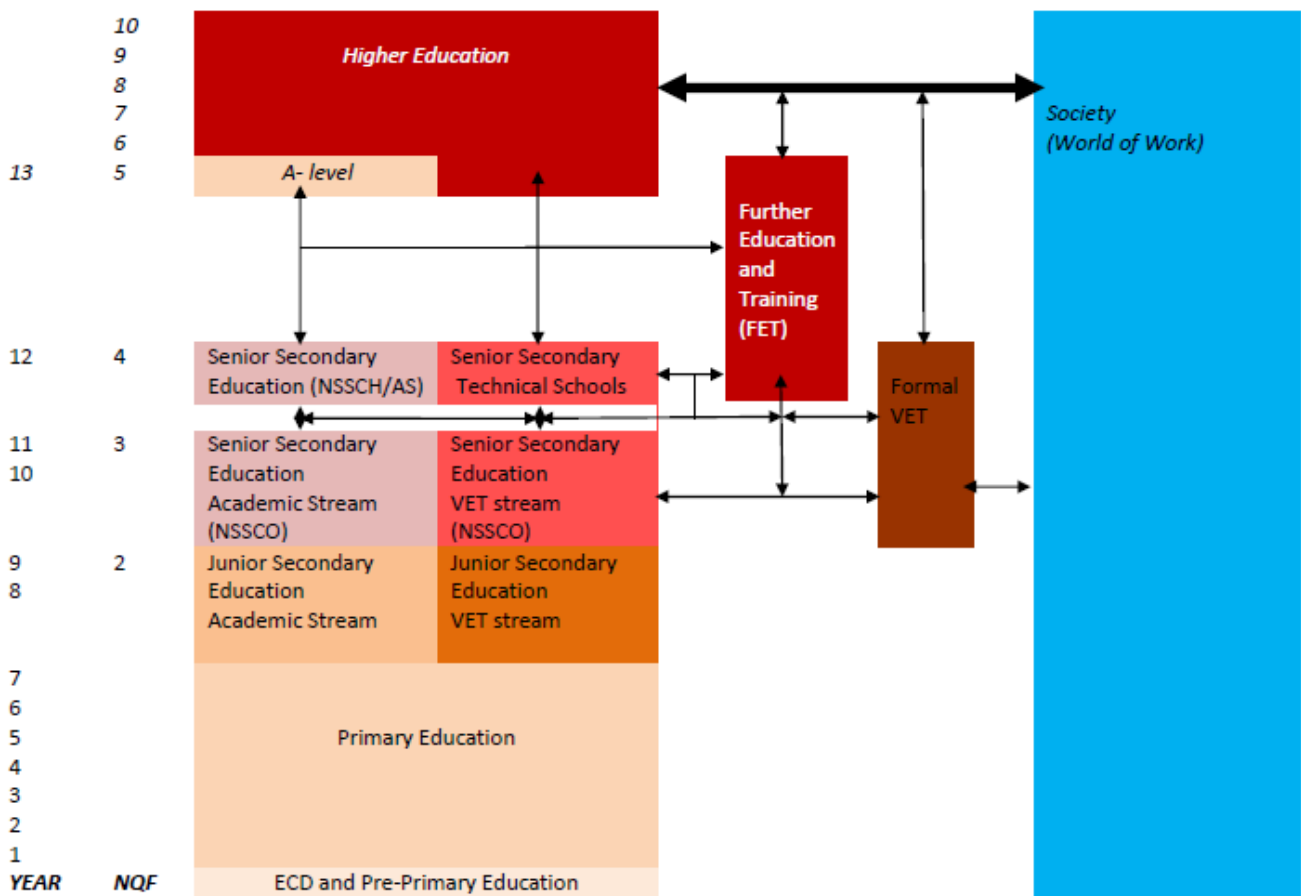
4.2.6 The learning support materials will be developed, evaluated, procured and distributed to schools in 2020 for the implementation of the revised grade 12 curriculum in 2021.

4.2.7 The learning support materials for the A Level subjects will be sourced from the international market.

In short, the revised curriculum for Basic Education will be implemented as follows:

Phase/Grade	Year of implementation
Junior Primary	2015
Senior Primary	2016
Grade 8	2017
Grade 9	2018
Grade 10	2019
Grade 11	2020
Grade 12	2021
Grade 13 (A level)	2022

The following figure shows the change in the Namibian education structure as a result of the change in the Basic Education structure.



The Namibian education structure

The figure above shows a change in the current Basic Education structure which comprises of *seven* years of primary education; *three* years of junior secondary education and *two* years of senior secondary education. The *revised* Basic Education structure comprises of *seven* years of primary education; *two* years of junior secondary education and *three* years of senior secondary education. A provision for a 13th grade is made for learners who wish to take subjects at A Level.

The Basic Education structure also shows that from the junior secondary phase, the curriculum is diversified with a predominant academic stream and a predominant pre-vocational and technical stream. This means that most schools will offer academic and prevocational subjects, while few schools will offer academic and pre-vocational/technical and home sciences subjects.

At the end of grade 9, learners will write junior secondary semi-national examinations. This means that examinations will be set and moderated centrally, but marked in the regions. Semi-national examinations will be carried out for quality assurance purposes. Promotion of learners to the senior secondary phase will be based on national promotion criteria.

Grade 11 is the first exit point in the senior secondary phase. Learners will receive an international recognised National Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary. Learners may choose to continue to grade 12, tertiary institutions, vocational education and training institutions or job market. Upon completing grade 12, school leavers will have an internationally recognised certificate, National Senior Secondary Certificate Higher Level, which gives them access into higher education institutions or the job market.

The Ministry of Education would like to request the University of Namibia and other higher education institutions to supply adequate number of teachers in order to meet the demand of the revised Basic Education curriculum.

The Ministry of Education would also like to request school managers, teachers, parents and the public at large to support the implementation of the revised curriculum for Basic Education.